

## IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete list of the claims now pending; this listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

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A1  
1. ~~(Currently Amended) An image processing method for instructing an~~  
image output unit to output onto a recording medium a reference image based on a predetermined patch pattern, and generating an image output condition of the image output unit on the basis of read data of the reference image output by the image output unit,

SPB  
wherein, in the patch pattern, plural identical patches are disposed at different positions on the recording medium, including at different positions in a main-scan direction and a sub-scan direction.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the reference image output by the image output unit is read by a flatbed scanner.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein an average of the read data concerning the plural identical patches is obtained.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the number of patches varies according to a color of the patches.

5. (Cancelled)

6. ~~(Currently Amended)~~ A method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the patch varies according to a kind of recording material ~~to be~~ used in the image output unit.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the number of patches at a high density portion is larger than the number of patches at a low density portion.

8. (Original) An image processing method for instructing an image output unit to output onto a recording medium a reference image based on a predetermined patch pattern, and generating an image output condition of the image output unit on the basis of read data of the reference image output by the image output unit, wherein in the patch pattern, the number of patches of black is different from the number of patches of another color.

9. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus which comprises instruction means for instructing an image output unit to output onto a recording medium a reference image based on a predetermined patch pattern, and generation means for generating an image output condition of the image output unit on the basis of read data obtained by reading the reference image output from the image output unit with use of a flatbed scanner, wherein, in the patch pattern, plural identical patches are disposed at different positions on the recording medium, including at different positions in a main-scan direction and a sub-scan direction.

10. ~~(Currently Amended)~~ A recording medium for recording a program to ~~perform execute~~ an image ~~process~~ processing method, said ~~medium recording program~~ comprising:

AI  
a code for instructing an image output unit to output a reference image based on a patch pattern in which plural identical patches are disposed at different positions on the recording medium; and

SP  
a code for generating an image output condition of the image output unit on the basis of read data of the reference image output by the image output unit,

wherein, in the patch pattern, plural identical patches are disposed at different positions on the recording medium, including at the different positions in a main-scan direction and a sub-scan direction.